

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01233 222204Z

11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /115 W

----- 060901

R 222049Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6631

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1233

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION STRIKE

BEGIN SUMMARY: A STRIKE OF BUS AND TAXI OWNERS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22 BUT WAS POSTPONED FOR FIVE DAYS AFTER A JOINT COMMISSION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OWNERS MET TO DISCUSS SITUATION. THE LABOR MOVEMENT HAS CONDEMNED THE STRIKE THREAT AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND AIMED AT OVERTHROWING THE MILITARY REGIME. THE STRIKE IS CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS BUT HAS ACQUIRED POLITICAL OVERTONES WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME. IT APPEARS THAT OPPOSITION ELEMENTS ARE USING THE STRIKE AS MEANS OF SHOWING GOVERNMENT INEPTITUDE IN THE FACE OF A DEGENERATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. A MEETING OF BUS AND TAXI OWNERS TOOK PLACE IN THE TOWN SIGUATEPEQUE ON MARCH 10. AT THAT TIME A SO-CALLED "CONSOLIDATED DEFENSE COMMITTEE FOR LAND TRANSPORT" WAS ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE THE ACTION OF THE OWNERS IN THEIR PROTESTS AGAINST THE RISING COST OF GASOLINE, THE EXORBITANT COST OF REPLACEMENT PARTS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 01233 222204Z

OF A PROPOSED GOVERNMENT LAW TO REGULATE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

THE PROPOSED DECREE IS CALLED THE "BOTTAZZI LAW" AFTER THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TRANSPORT, ANGELO BOTTAZZI SUAREZ. THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED A PERIOD OF TEN DAYS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION OR THEY WOULD GO ON STRIKE.

2. THE GOVERNMENT REACTED BY FORMING A JOINT COMMISSION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE WHICH MET ON MARCH 19 TO CONSIDER THE MATTERS RAISED BY THE OWNERS. THE COMMISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING THE STRIKE POSTPONED FOR FIVE DAYS. THE JOINT COMMISSION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD UTILIZE THE PERIOD TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

3. THE DEMANDS OF THE BUS AND TAXI OWNERS HAVE BEEN MET WITH CRITICISM BY LABOR UNION LEADERS. ANDRES VICTOR ARTILES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS (CTH), TOLD EMPLOYEES THAT REAL REASON FOR STRIKE WAS DESIRE OF OWNERS TO AVOID IMPLEMENTATION OF BOTTAZZI LAW BECAUSE IT WOULD COMPEL THEM TO ESTABLISH ITINERARIES, BUILD TERMINALS, AVOID OVERLOADING AND IN GENERAL GIVE THE PASSENGERS RELIABLE SERVICE. HE POINTED OUT THAT OWNERS WERE FIERCELY OPPOSED TO PROPOSED LAW BECAUSE IT WOULD LIMIT THEIR PROFITS. ARTILES STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE CTH DID NOT SUPPORT THE STRIKE AND QUESTIONED ITS MOTIVES. CELEO GONZALEZ PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH COAST LABOR FEDERATION FESITRANH, CALLED A MEETING OF THE FEDERATION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON MARCH 20. THE COMMITTEE CALLED THE STRIKE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND SAID THAT ITS PURPOSE IS TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME. THE COMMITTEE PASSED A RESOLUTION THAT: (A) PLACED THE UNION MOVEMENT ON ALERT; (B) FULLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT; (C) CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE BOTTAZZI LAW; (D) ASKED THAT DRASTIC MEASURES BE TAKEN AGAINST THE SUBVERSIVE ACTION OF BUS OWNERS AND (E) CONDEMNED THE PROPOSED STRIKE. RUBEN SOLANO DIAZ, A LEADER OF THE STRIKE, PUBLICLY STATED THAT GONZALEZ AND ARTILES DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT AND SHOULD SHUT UP.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE TRANSPORT STRIKE HAS TAKEN ON POLITICAL OVERTONES. THE OPPOSITION TO THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 01233 222204Z

REGIME IS USING IT AS A MEANS OF SHOWING THAT THINGS ARE GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE. CLEARLY THIS STRATEGY IS AIMED AT CREATING AN IMAGE OF GOVERNMENT INEPTITUDE IN THE FACE OF A DEGENERATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION. IN THAT REGARD, THERE IS EVIDENCE OF INCREASING PREOCCUPATION BEING VOICED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT CONCERNING VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE STRIKE THREAT IS BEING MANIPULATED IN AN ATTEMPT

TO INFLUENCE THOSE OFFICERS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS. THE DEFENSIVE STANCE OF GONZALEZ
AND ARTILES SHOWS THAT THE LABOR MOVEMENT IS CONCERNED
ABOUT THE POLITICAL COLORATION OF THE STRIKE AND ARE
GIVING NOTICE OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN
THE FACE OF THIS CHALLENGE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION, LABOR STRIKES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, MEETINGS, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEGUCI01233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740062-0755
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740320/aaaaatiq.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSPORTATION STRIKE BEGIN SUMMARY: A STRIKE OF BUS AND TAXI OWNERS HAD BEEN
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005